

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:493
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2008
ONE LPG CONNECTION PER HOUSEHOLD
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to allow only one LPG connection per household in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that a household possessing only one cylinder per connection needs to wait at least 5 to 6 days before getting a refill of their empty cylinder;
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to avoid such hardship to the consumers;
- (e) whether the Government is also planning to provide alternate sources, such as biogas, for cooking purposes; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (d): Domestic LPG is a subsidized product. While OMCs are making all efforts to meet the genuine demand of the customers, there is a need to keep a check to prevent diversion of domestic LPG cylinders for unauthorized use. LPG distributors of OMCs are required to release LPG cylinders against bookings only and the refill supplies of domestic LPG are being made by the OMCs in accordance with the genuine requirements of customers.

At present, new LPG connections are available across the counter for genuine domestic customers and supply of LPG connection is regulated under the provisions of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 (Control Order). Amendments to the Control Order relating to restriction of LPG connections on household basis are under consideration of the Government.

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. OMCs have further reported that they have supplied 8450 TMT (Thousand Metric Tonnes) of domestic LPG in the country during the period – April, 2007-January, 2008 as against 8030 TMT during the corresponding period of last year, showing a growth of 5.2%.

However, OMCs had reported backlog in LPG supplies in certain States in the country due to reduction in supply of bulk LPG by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Essar Oil Limited in January 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by rail from Jamnagar to the Northern Region, increased demand in the States due to severe cold which resulted in panic booking by the customers, strikes by contract labour, agitational activities, delays in berthing of vessels at Haldia Port due to reduced draft, bandhs etc.

Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the States by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours. Increased bottling is also being done during the working days for early clearance of backlog.

(e) & (f) : About 89.9% of LPG is used as domestic LPG for cooking purposes in the country. While there is no proposal to substitute LPG with some other fuel, with the increase in availability of natural gas and the necessary pipeline distribution network in future, supplies of piped natural gas may substitute LPG supplies in some areas gradually. At present, piped natural gas is being supplied to some areas of Delhi and Mumbai.